

# **Widows Indeed (I)**

1 Tim 5:3-10

God always had very special place for widow in His program.

Early church called:

Intercessors of church

Keepers of door

Keepers of altar.

God's care for widows

**Widow:** a woman whose husband has died.

- I. **God is Father of fatherless and judge of widows.**

Umbrella of protection for widow

Deuteronomy 10:18 Proverbs 15:25 Psalm 146:9

- II. **God provides for widows by means of tithe and forgotten sheaf.**

Deuteronomy 24:19 Deuteronomy 24:20 Deuteronomy 24:21

- III. **God blesses those who help and honor widow**

Isaiah 1:17 Jeremiah 7:6 Jeremiah 22:3

- IV. **God rebukes and punishes those who hurt widows**

Exodus 22:22-24

*They shall cry at all unto me: shriek....make a proclamation to me.*

- V. **Widows are object of Christ's tender compassion**

Mark 12:41-44 Luke 7:12-15 Luke 20:47

- VI. **Widows were not forgotten in the early church. Acts 6:1-6**

**1 Timothy 5:3**

**Honour widows:** revere, venerate, pay respect, show deference, treat with high regard and great consideration

**Widows Indeed.** Truly widows...have a bonified need.

Show respect and dignity to widows who are truly widows and have a bonified need.

Classes of widow

1. Widows with relatives
2. Widows that are young and frivolous
3. Widows that are widows indeed

Names put on list

If met requirements/qualifications put on as "widow staff."

Honoured by position and finances.

Ie. Dorcus in Acts 9

**1 Timothy 5:4**

**Nephews:** linear descendants. Grandson or descendent; Son of brother/brother in law or sister or sister in law.

**let them learn first to show piety at home,** religious duty.

Matter of showing one's devotion to God.

**Them:** children/grandchildren

**require their parents:** to give off from one's self; to discharge one's obligations. demonstrate appreciation

Pay them back.

... **good and acceptable before God.** Pleasing to God.

Really want to do something which pleases God?

Make sure take care of those who took care of you.

Ie. Joseph

Ie. Jesus on the cross

Eph 6:2

### 1 Timothy 5:5

1. **Desolate.** Alone, no children or grandchildren to support her.

2. **Faithful Testimony**

**trusteth in God**... fixed hope on God

**continueth in supplications..** prayer for personal needs

**and prayers...** worship, outpourings of soul.

**Night and day**... prayer time not now and then

Ie. Anna: Luke 2:36-37

Opposite :

### 1 Timothy 5:6

**Pleasure:** lives luxuriously; leads a voluptuous life. ... *frivolous, dissolute, pleasure mad*

**Dead while she liveth:** living dead person

Lost real meaning and purpose of life

Useless to cause of Christ

Godly widows—tremendous asset to kingdom

### 1 Timothy 5:7

**These things give in charge**...blameless

Irreproachable...not hypocrites!

### 1 Timothy 5:8

**Provide:** to perceive before, foresee, think of it beforehand

**His own household...**near relatives, of own household

**Deny:** contradict, refuse,

**Faith:** what believe as Christian

*Faith demands work and fruits. By refusing the natural duties which Christian faith implies, one practically denies his possession of faith.*

*Real faith perfects and strengthens natural duties (Author unknown)*

**And is worse than an infidel**

**Infidel:** no faith...unbeliever

Thought: Even unsaved and unbelieving person take care of own.

If a man doesn't provide ...fallen below standards of heathen without Christ!

### 3. At least 60 years of age.

## **1 Timothy 5:9**

**60.** Not likely want to remarry!

**Taken into the number:** enrolled; put on list,

## **4. Good marriage record. *having been the wife of one man*,**

Same as Bishop/Deacon

Can't be a divorced woman.

## **5. Reputation of Good Works.**

### **1 Timothy 5:10**

**Well reported of:** born witness to; good name; good reputation.

Manifestation of her good works

a. **Brought up children if she have brought up children,**

b. **Hospitality. ...if she have lodged strangers,**

c. **Foot washing. if she have washed the saints' feet,**

Mark of hospitality

Demonstrated by character--willing be servant even in dirty things.

Servant's heart.

d. **Relieved the afflicted. if she have relieved the afflicted,**

Took care of people in need.

Good track record before husband died.

Great blessing to any local church!

e. **Always looking for opportunities to serve. if she have diligently followed every good work.**

## **So what?**

### **1. Honor widows**

### **2. Man—providers of household v. 8**

### **3. Women—Honorable desire for you to pursue these attributes**

Godly children

Hospitality

Servant's heart

Relieve the afflicted

Worker